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Cadet Ryan Pearce, Det. 800, University of Tennessee, rock climbs in preparation for Combat Rescue Officer school which he will attend after graduation this fall. Complete story in page 12. (Courtesy photo) 2827 or DSN 493-2827. Leader cover computer designs by Airman 1st Class Rachel Bush.

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Cadets SOARING

By Cadet Kathleen Serck Det. 775, University of South Carolina

This past summer I had the unique experience of participating in the SOAR program at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. I knew that this was a rare, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Upon arrival I was excited, but really did not have a clear idea of what the program entailed. It sounded like it was going to be something I would enjoy; but upon completion of the program, my expectations were far exceeded.

It's been several months since I returned from SOAR, and the three things that have stayed with me the most are my exposure to the Academy, the relationships I formed while there and, of course, the flying!

Personally, I had never even considered going to the Academy, so I was wary of the idea of experiencing their lifestyle. Although we were not fully treated as equivalent to academy cadets, we did get to witness and live many of their daily routines. We stayed in the dorms, ate in the dining hall and even had room inspections. In our down time, we played volleyball, worked out in their impressive athletic facilities and left the base to see Colorado Springs. Although I enjoyed my visit to the academy, I came to better appreciate the path I have chosen as an AFROTC cadet.

The people I met at SOAR are motivated, interesting and exceptional just like the cadets at Det. 775. There were ap-

proximately 50 detachments represented from across the nation. I enjoyed hearing them talk about their individual detachments and comparing them to Det 775. It's neat to meet and get to know people from all over the United States who have a common bond in the Air Force. I

look forward to seeing them in the future, whether it is this summer at field training or later down the road in the Air Force.

Before SOAR, I had never flown anything. The closest thing I had to base it on was video games and driving a car. I thoroughly read the manual they gave us prior to SOAR, and knew the basics of flying by the books. No matter how many times you read a manual, nothing can replace actual hands-on experience.

To my surprise, we spent minimal time in ground school, and by the second day we were in the air actually flying. My first experience soaring was in the TG-7A motor glider with an officer as the pilot. I was familiarized with aircraft controls, the ever-present checklist, pattern work and the perspective to Earth. The advantage of the motor glider was that it had an engine, so I could practice landing and aim points repeatedly. After spending about an hour in the motor glider, unpowered flight followed in the TG-4A. Collectively, I had about 15 flights in the TG-4A and spent approximately four hours a day on the flight line.

On each flight, the instructor pilot graded us on maneuvers performed. They sat in the back seat and demonstrated the maneuver first, and then we were expected to perform them. These included aero tow, stall recoveries, slow flight, steep turns and rectangular traffic patterns. Additionally, I was expected to orally cover all the checklists, clear for aircraft, and execute radio procedures. During my first flight in the TG-4A, the Instructor Pilot had to take control of the aircraft almost the entire time, but by the end of the program he was able to sit back and relax while I soared.

The SOAR mission is to form the foundation of cadet exposure to military aviation, build character, and help motivate cadets toward a career in the United States Air Force. I

believe my experience accomplished this and more. I feel fortunate to have had this opportunity and to have had such a rewarding experience. I encourage everyone who can to apply for the SOAR program.

My advice to you is this, if anyone ever tells you to go retrieve 60 feet of flight line, they are playing a practical joke on you. And, never volunteer to clean the prop wash!



Cadet Kathleen Serck

.. Air Force Academy Soaring is a 15-day program designed to give AS-

100 cadets the opportunity to experience the basic fundamentals of flight in non-powered glider operations. Training is conducted at the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colo. Cadets receive instruction in basic flight through ground school and actual flight, leading up to and possibly including cadet solo. Cadets can expect 8 to 15 flights total while spending 5 hours each day on the flight line. Upper class USAFA cadets trained as soaring instructors conduct the majority of instruction. The program assumes that cadets have no previous flight experience.

Fresno State supports **Shoeboxes for Soldiers Campaign**

By Cadet Kevin E. Coffman Det. 035, California State University, Fresno

California State University, Fresno's Air Force ROTC, Det.035, was involved in The Shoeboxes for Soldiers campaign which initially kicked-off on Veterans' Day 2002, with a ceremony honoring our nation's veterans. The Shoeboxes for Soldiers campaign is designed to provide U.S. troops overseas with various nonperishable items. The shoeboxes were, at one time, called goodwill boxes and initially provided by the American Red Cross during the Spanish-American War. The shoeboxes contain such items as jerky, hard candy, chewing gum, magazines, books, crossword puzzles and other fun items that troops may not have access to while serving in a remote location.

The program was initially brought to light when Bob and Linda Ritter of Fresno, California, decided to promote the service. The Ritter's son is currently serving with the 82nd Airborne Division overseas. A local radio station assisted in spreading the word by encouraging everyone to send a box from home

The public affairs department at Fresno State contacted Capt. Brian Winklepleck, the Commandant of Cadets, and he in turn informed the Arnold Air Society about this worthwhile project. The Brig. Gen. Robin Olds Squadron of the

Arnold Air Society, along with the Pi Sigma Epsilon business fraternity at Fresno State, contributed to the success of the program. Together, the Robin Olds Squadron and the Sigma Pi Epsilon Fraternity worked a combined total of 694 hours during the 19-day campaign.

The Squadron Deputy Commander, Cadet Shannon O'Neal, took part in several different television and radio interviews to encourage people to take part in the program. The Fresno affiliates of Fox, NBC, ABC and CBS broadcasted live television interviews with Cadet O'Neal. According to Cadet O'Neal, her television interviews included various statements about event times, collection locations, status of the campaign and the involvement of the Arnold Air Society. Cadet O'Neal took part in a radio interview after the campaign was completed. This included questions about how the event was conducted, the amount of shoeboxes collected and how people can be involved in future drives. While the Arnold Air Society was heavily involved in the campaign, it provided the Fresno State AFROTC program public exposure within the local community.

In order to simplify the collection process, several collection points were established. On Nov. 16, the Arnold Air Society and the Pi Sigma Epsilon fraternity worked side-by-side to collect and organize shoeboxes prior to a Fresno State Bulldog's football game. About 750 boxes were collected dur-

ing the game.

The last event took place on Nov. 30, with many local supporters, including retired California National Guard Maj. Gen. Ronald Markarian. During this effort to collect donated and needed items for servicemembers, more than 7,500 boxes were collected. Some of the volunteers that attended the event were veterans. One of them told some of the cadets that he remembers getting a shoebox during the Vietnam War, and still has some of the items that were given to him.

Det. 035 and the AAS are proud that they could take part in such a noble cause.



Det. 035, California State University, Fresno, cadets and the Pi Sigma Epsilon fraternity collect shoeboxes at the Fresno State home football game Nov. 16. (Courtesy photo)

Det. 035 honors college hero

By Cadet Tony Montes

Det. 035 California State University, Fresno

The cadets of Detachment 035, California State University, Fresno, wasted no time in honoring Columbia Space Shuttle Commander Col. Rick Husband after the tragic shuttle disaster on Feb. 1. News of the accident touched the lives of many at the Det. because Col. Husband was an alumnus of Fresno State with a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

Within hours of the disaster, cadets were able to work with the university and organize a flag ceremony for dozens who were grieving the loss of the school's hero. The somber event included a retreat ceremony, the playing of "Taps," and a long moment of silence.

Det. 035 commander Lt. Col. James Harper tasked Cadet Philip Silva with organizing the memorial the morning the news broke. Cadet Silva had only a few hours to rally his fellow cadets and work out the details of the event.

"Immediately it was a challenge because it was a Saturday," Cadet Silva said at the disaster memorial. "Because of our central location in the heart of California, cadets are always out of town. They go to the coast, Los Angeles, San Francisco, hit the slopes in the Sierras for some snowboarding or are at work."



Cadet Shawn Chamberlin, from Det. 035, carries the flag for the flag detail at the ceremony. (Courtesy photo)



Army and Air Force Detachment Commanders and their respective staff from California State University, Fresno. (Courtesy photo)

Despite the obstacles, Cadet Silva immediately called his Operations Group Commander and they worked down the chain-of-command.

"We put our training to use, went down the phone list and grabbed any cadet that was available," Cadet Silva said.

The detachment was able to muster 23 of 80 cadets and four cadre members within three hours. They were joined by eight cadets from Fresno State's Army ROTC detachment to form a joint-service formation.

Word of the memorial quickly spread around campus. The cadets soon had a large audience, many pouring out from a women's basketball game. The crowd noticed the formation and stopped to pay their respects. University officials also notified local media which covered the solemn ceremony.

"The cadets really did a great job in such a short time," Colonel Harper said. "To be able to gather over a quarter of all cadets was outstanding."

For most cadets it was not too much to ask. Cadet Christopher Gott said, "I didn't mind sacrificing part of my Saturday to honor someone who means so much to Fresno State and the Air Force."

Col. Husband was proud to be a Bulldog. He attended distance-learning courses through the university at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and would sometimes drive 50 miles to classes.

On the Columbia mission, Col. Husband took a Fresno State sweater with him to wear while in space. The university had planned to honor him with a ceremony after he had returned home.

A more formal ceremony was held on Feb. 5. This ceremony included cadets, members of the local police and fire stations, a 21-gun salute by a local Marine Reserve unit, and a fly-by with F-16s from the 144th Fighter Wing stationed at the Fresno Air National Guard Base.

Lt. Col Harper spoke to the hundreds of students that came out to honor the fallen Bulldog. In his speech, Lt. Col. Harper said, "Col. Husband was trying to find ways to make life better. He and the members of his crew perished doing what they wanted to do."

OPD: Officer Professional Development

By Capt. Keith Albee AFOATS Curriculum

Many articles have been written on Officer Professional Development, but why is this important to a fourth year ROTC student? The following will try to answer this question in a practical manner to help you make the transition from cadet to second lieutenant.

First, what is Officer Professional Development? AFI 36-2611, Officer Professional Development, expresses OPD in terms of a goal: "The goal of professional development is to develop a well-rounded, professionally competent officer corps to meet current and future mission requirements. The officer's aspirations, preferences and long-term professional development goals will most likely be realized when in harmony with long-term Air Force requirements."

Further explanation in AFI 36-2611 references officer professional development in terms of three basic elements:

- Assignments that provide depth and breadth,
- Training and education that support a specific career path
- Counseling that provides feedback on performance, training and future assignments.

Commander and key supervisor involvement and interaction with the officer is the cornerstone of an officer's professional development.

Professional development includes those actions and experiences that enhance an officer's ability to perform his or her job and thereby contribute to the mission of the Air Force

as the level of responsibility increases. It begins with concentration on primary job expertise, broadens through the career at different rates for different officers and culminates in a generalist with both depth and breadth of experience. This growth pattern is produced by a well-balanced combination of career area professional expertise, leadership and management skills.

The relative emphasis on these areas will vary since officer roles in support of the mission also vary with both grade and level of responsibility.

Finally, why is this important to a fourth year ROTC student? As a new second lieutenant you will be responsible for your own OPD. Using the basic elements of OPD as reference, let's look at some examples relating to the 63A, *Acquisitions Manager* career field.

First, assignments that provide depth and breadth. Lieutenants and captains should concentrate on depth of experience in their career area. By depth we mean detailed knowledge of one aspect of your career field. In the case of the 63A lieutenant or captain this means learn the details of the AF budgeting process.

Breadth of experience is more appropriate for field grade officers. For the 63A major this means knowing the budget, how contracts are

administrated and how a System Program Office works. Somewhere around the midmajor point, an officer's career may broaden.

A lieutenant colonel looking for promotion to colonel should place more emphasis on broader considerations—that is, breadth of duty experiences that include command, career-broadening assignments,

Professional Military Education, advanced education, and headquarters assignments.

Information on what types of jobs are considered depth and what jobs are considered breadth

Here's an example of depth and breadth of jobs for the 63A, Acquisitions Manager career field:				
<u>DAFSC</u>	<u>Duty Title</u>	Command	<u>Base</u>	<u>Duty Date</u>
63A3	Project Officer, F-22 Financial Team	AFMC	Wright-Patt	15 Jul 1994
63A3	Program Manager, F-22 Defensive Sys	AFMC	Wright-Patt	15 Dec 1995
63A3	Program Manager, GPS Integration	AFSPC	Los Angeles	15 Jul 1997
63A3	Student, Education with Industry (EWI)	AFIT	Wright-Patt	15 Aug 1999
63A3	Data Masked (Classified)			15 Jun 2000
82A0	Curriculum Area Manager	AETC	Maxwell	15 Jun 2002
63A4	Deputy Program Manager, C-5	AFMC	Tinker	15 Jun 2005

in your career field can be found on the website at AFPC: http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/

The second basic element of OPD is training and education supporting a specific career path. Training will mean both career field specific and PME. Most career fields will have some sort of initial training for you to attend when you are commissioned, followed by periodic refresher and specialized training.

PME for you as a second lieutenant means Air and Space Basic Course (ASBC) followed by Squadron Officer school (SOS), Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) and, for the fortunate few, Air War College (AWC) as you progress in rank.

There's no need to get into the details or purpose of each level of PME. My advice to you is don't ever decline PME in residence!

Education will entail earning at least a master's degree. Get it as early as possible while you're still in the habit of studying and your level of responsibility as a lieutenant is fairly low. You will have more responsibility and be devoting more time to the job as your rank increases. Bottom Line: training and education is a part of the way of life in the AF.

The third basic element of OPD is counseling which provides feedback on performance, training and future assignments. One type of counseling is to find someone in your chain of command who is in your same career field and discuss what training you need and what types of future assignments are best.

Another type of counseling is mentoring. A mentor is defined in AFI 36-3401, *Air Force Mentoring*, as "a trusted counselor or guide." Find and seek advice in your own career field and other career fields. Some of the areas you should discuss are short, medium, and long-term goals. An example of advice given by a mentor is, if your long-term goal is to be a unit commander, you will need to develop many communication skills.

To develop your written skills, write an award and decoration or become a unit executive officer. To develop your verbal communication skills, get involved in activities such as speeches on Veterans or Memorial Day or become a board member for a volunteer organization.

Both verbal and oral communication skills are very important for everyone, but especially for a unit commander.

Officer Professional Development will be important to the cadet in their fourth year of ROTC. You will be second lieutenants in a few short months. When you are on active duty, develop your own OPD plan that incorporates the three elements of OPD: assignments, training and education, and counseling.

Get advice from many sources including a mentor. Use this advice to develop yourself into a well-rounded officer ready for any assignment or duty in your future. Remember, you're responsible for your own OPD!



Capt. Maureen Allen, an OTS graduate who is now a flight nurse with the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron poses with President George W. and Mrs. Laura Bush after the President's State of the Union address. (Courtesy photo)

OTS grad attends

By Jeff Melvin 908th Public Affairs Maxwell Air Force Base presidential address

Like many Americans Air Force Reserve Capt. Maureen Allen listened intently to President Bush's State of the Union address Jan. 28. But unlike those millions watching on TV or listening on the radio, Allen had a prime seat right next to first lady Laura Bush.

Captain Allen, a flight nurse with the 908th Airlift Wing's 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and a graduate of Officer Training School's Commissioned Officer Training program, joined members of Congress and special guests on Capitol Hill as the president spoke before a worldwide, television audience.

Picked by the White House because she volunteered to go overseas for Operation Enduring Freedom, Captain Allen experienced a whirlwind week that far eclipsed Andy Warhol's observation that anyone in America can be famous for 15 minutes. Captain Allen's moment in the spotlight continued unabated for at least another day with appearances the following morning on CBS's "The Early Show" and CNN's "American Morning with Paula Zahn," an interview with a local newspaper at the airport on her return to Montgomery, Ala., and capped by interviews

with three local TV stations. Add the print news stories and local TV segments that ran shortly after the announcement of her selection Jan. 27 and one understands why she told a local reporter, "I survived," upon her return from Washington, D.C.

Noting that she turned 37 Jan. 28, the North Tonawanda, N.Y., native described her attendance at the presidential address as "a nice birthday present and an unbelievable opportunity. In fact, it was one of the more rewarding experiences I have had in my 18 years of Air Force service."

For 120 days Capt. Allen served as medical crew director on a three-person team that treated people injured in combat and noncombat situations throughout the region. That included aeromedical evacuation flights in and out of both Kandahar and Bagram air bases in Afghanistan, as well as remote locations in Uzbekistan.

Neither the combat situations nor the austere conditions dampened her zeal to accomplish the mission.

"It was amazing. But in the end, we were so well trained and qualified to do our job. It felt good to do the mission we were always trained to do."

She lauded the performance of her fellow crew members, 908 AES aeromedical evacuation technicians Master Sgt. James Weber and Tech. Sgt. Patrick Weir, saying theirs was a total team effort.

The 908 AES trio earned an Army Commendation Medal for their Operation Enduring Freedom support and has been nominated for an Air Medal.

She'd volunteer again, she said. "That's why I joined the Air Force. I'd do it again, absolutely, if needed."

As a result of her OEF participation her name was submitted as a person the White House might call on to represent the Air Force during a fall presidential function, said Maj. Jerry Lobb, 908AW public affairs officer. She was passed up for the October event, but her name was picked for the State of the Union, to sit next to the First Lady.

"Can you have Captain. Allen in

D.C. for the State of the Union address," Major Lobb said, recalling the call he received from the Pentagon Monday morning. "That was a tremendous way to start Monday morning."

Captain Allen said she had family members watching the address. Her mother, father, sister and brother tuned in from upstate New York.

"It was the most wonderful experience," Captain Allen said. "The president was very eloquent. I'm so grateful and blessed that I was able to do that."

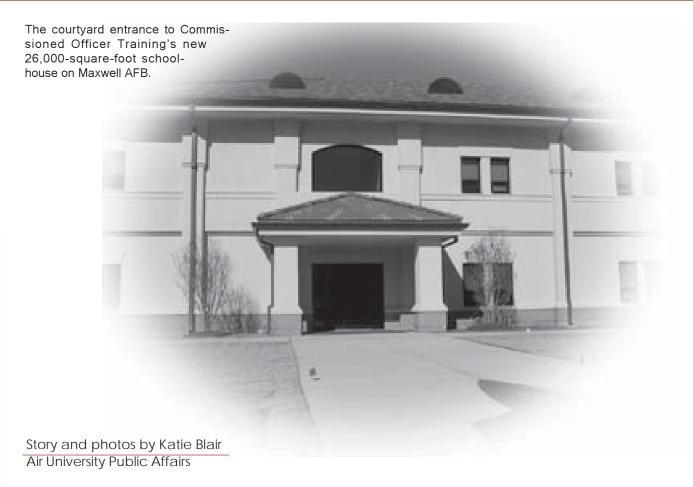


Capt. Maureen Allen, flight nurse with the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, answers a local reporter's questions after she returned from President Bush's State of the Union address. (Photo by Jeff Melvin)

COT opens doors to new schoolhouse



Capt. John Langston, a flight training officer with the 23rd Training Squadron, instructs in the new facilities.



When the 105 students arrived for Commissioned Officer Training in early January to take their first steps in their Air Force careers, they were also the first class to set foot in COT's new facility on Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

COT is a 4 1/2-week course for medical professionals, judge advocates and chaplains preparing for military officership. The course provids training in leadership studies, profession of arms and communication studies combined with projects focusing on group leadership.

After more than six years of sharing classroom and office space with the Air Force Senior NCO Academy on Gunter Annex, COT officially opened its new 26,000-square-foot schoolhouse on the Officer Training School campus Jan. 7. The class represents the arrival of the Air Force's future lawyers, medical professionals and chaplains.

The new two-story schoolhouse has 18 flight rooms outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment that hold 16 students each, whereas at its Gunter location, it had only eight flight rooms that held 14 students each.

The facility also houses the Air Force Officer Accessions

and Training Schools' Curriculum Division, which makes the academic instructors more readily accessible to the students. Also, by being on the OTS campus, students have ready access to a full-size drill pad, fitness center and running track, said the 23rd Training Squadron's director of operations.

"We also save about six hours per class in travel time by not having to bus students from Gunter to participate in leadership and deployment exercises and get to scheduled appointments on Maxwell AFB," said Maj. Doug Loehr. "We can now redirect this time back into classroom instruction."

"More important than the new facility and increased training capacity is the fulfillment of a goal to have all of OTS on a single campus," said Col. Larry Pitts, commander of OTS. "OTS is also truly grateful to the Senior NCO Academy for the use of their facilities these last six-plus years at Gunter."

"COT has always been a part of OTS," said 1st Lt. Angela Herron, a COT flight training officer. "Now we feel like a part of the whole OTS family."



Col. Judy Fedder

U.S. Forces Azores and 65th Air Base Wing commander

By Tech. Sgt. Jason Tudor

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

One day in 1978, college sophomore Judy Fedder made a fashion decision that would last her a lifetime.

After a year of contemplation, the dietetics major at Michigan State University decided to join the service. After all, her father, an Army warrant officer, served in Vietnam and later retired. Although she denied the voice calling her to public service throughout high school, Col. Judy Fedder, U.S. Forces Azores and 65th Air Base Wing commander, heard it loud and clear again when she saw the cadets in their green uniforms parading around campus.

Colonel Fedder was on her way to sign up for Army ROTC when she bumped into a friend in the dorm. When Colonel Fedder told her friend what her plans were, the friend's eyes got wide.

Col. Judy Fedder (right) accepts command of the 65th Air Base Wing from Col. John Koziol in August 2001. She also serves as the U.S. Forces Azores commander. This is her fourth command assignment. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Holzworth)

"She cried, 'don't join the Army!" Colonel Fedder said, recalling the intervention. The friend led her into the Air Force ROTC detachment office. The friend told one of the staff NCOs of Colonel Fedder's plan. The NCO gave one look at her and cinched the decision for Colonel Fedder with five words, "You'd look better in blue," It was enough.

An admitted Army brat, Colonel Fedder grew up on the northwestern shores of Michigan with her father, mother and two sisters. When she decided on Air Force ROTC at Det. 380, Michigan State University — a unit that's ignited the careers of seven Air Force general officers, including commander of the Air Education and Training Command, Gen. Donald Cook — she also cast aside her notions of a career in medicine. Once she'd flung herself full force into

her decision to cross into the blue, being closer to the action made more sense.

"Being on a team in ROTC, I could relate. I wanted to belong. I wanted to be close to the action, close to the aircraft," she said, admitting some of that comes from the Army upbringing. "And besides, I was told I was too short to fly."

Aircraft maintenance was her career path of choice. During her time in ROTC, she became the cadet wing's corps commander, the second woman to do so. By 1980, Colonel Fedder had done well enough to earn distinguished graduate honors and her commission.

As a second lieutenant, Colonel Fedder found herself as the officer in charge of one of the Air Force's largest fighter wings, at Langley Air Force Base, Va. Circumstances and mission quickly gave her an impression of service as an Air Force officer.

"Nothing was comfortable at first. I was fresh out of college with a degree in dietetics, and I had 180 maintainers working for me," she remembered with a smile.

Her maintenance duties meant she oversaw making sure 84 F-15 Eagles could fly.

Some of the most important life lessons the colonel learned in her career were learned at her first assignment from supervising and dealing with people.

"I learned that the 'we' is more important than the 'I', especially as an officer," the colonel said. "What I thought and what I wanted to do wasn't the most important thing. I was there to help shape and guide our people — help them follow the mission."

Colonel Fedder is one of 403 Air Force colonels who are women. According to the Air Force Personnel Center, that's about 3.2 percent of total blue suit O-6 cadre. However, in her 20-plus years of service, Fedder said gender has never been a barrier. While the number of colonels who are women may seem low to some, Fedder said there shouldn't be a quota.

"There probably isn't a right number," she said. "At this level, earning the colonel rank should be like everything else — the needs of the Air Force. I'd feel very offended if I knew I made colonel because I was female. That's doing a disservice to our Air Force."

With three previous command assignments under her belt, Colonel Fedder knew that one of the greatest challenges that she would face as the air base wing commander at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, would be making decisions with a level head all the time.

"That's probably one of my greatest challenges," she said of making difficult decisions. "Can I have the same temperament at all times? I owe that to people. I can't be up and down and all over the place or no one will know what to expect."

The colonel compares an appointment to wing com-

mander to that of a corporate vice president or a regional general manager.

"I'm here to help shape our team and guide the mission," the colonel said. "Some people think that when you're the commander, you have people doing push-ups when you tell them to do push-ups. That's not the case. I'm the corporate manager for our piece of the national security picture."

As such, one of the colonel's goals is to ensure that all commanders and supervisors can be successful in their job. The colonel said that means reaching out and connecting with people, one of her personal goals.

"I'm trying to get to know everybody in this wing," she said. "There's no reason I shouldn't recognize everyone who works for me."

As it turns out, the decision Colonel Fedder made partly based on one NCO's fashion opinion transformed more than just her own life. It's transformed hundreds of others who've worked with her. Colonel Fedder looks back over her career, the accomplishments she's made and the people she's reached, and she's proud of her service. She's looking forward to adding another assignment to her career and serving into the future.

"I'll continue to serve as long as I feel I can make an impact," she said.

And one other thing.

"Blue was the right choice," she concluded with a smile.



Col. Judy Fedder, Official U.S. Air Force photo

Climbing towa

Cadet makes cor

By Airman Jonathan Ortiz-Torres Assistant Leader Editor

"I want to join the Air Force to become a pilot" is probably ranked number one as the most frequently said statement in a recruiter's office; however, for one cadet, choosing the road less traveled in the Air Force is an ambition that, so far, "has been one of the hardest experiences" in his life.

Cadet Ryan Pearce, of Det. 800, University of Tennessee, had little doubt about aspiring to become a member of one of the least known U.S. Special Operations career fields combat rescue officer.

"I wasn't really sure about joining the military, especially after Sept. 11 until I read an article about pararescuemen or PJs (Air Force's elite search and rescue team) on the Internet," said the 23-year-old Bozeman, Mo., native. "As soon as I read about their job and missions, it really sparked something inside of me."

The combat rescue officer career field was created about three years ago as the need and importance of recovery and combat rescue operations increased with today's Expeditionary Aerospace Force, according to officials.

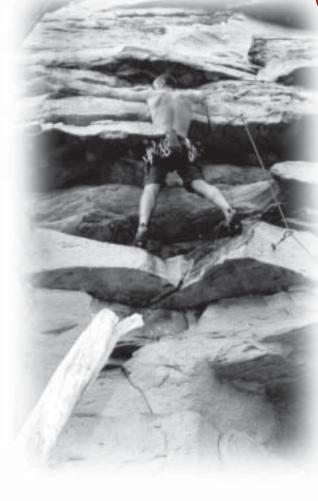
Not only do they receive the same training as PJs at the beginning, they will also go on to learn about leadership and planning for rescue operations.

"All I have done is allowed a door to open for me," Cadet Pearce explains knowing that he has only stepped foot on the starting line of 53 weeks of crawling under barbed wire, free fall parachuting, combat underwater diving and survival training to name a few.

"I am really looking forward to the physical challenges of it," he said. "I used to play football, wrestle, run track and have a passion for rock climbing. That is one of the reasons I chose to pursue this career."

"When Cadet Pearce came here last spring, he immediately excelled academically and physically," said Lt. Col. John Cherry, commandant of cadets. "His strength is his training mentality."

Cadet Pearce's road to being accepted to the combat rescue officer program began with phase one, which



Cadet Ryan Pearce, Det. 800, University of Tennesse, participating in rock climbing training. (Courtesy photo)



Physical training is a very important part of combat rescue officer training. (Photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis)

rd a dream

nbat rescue school

involved applications and letters of recommendation. His detachment administered a standard physical test to include swimming, running and calisthenics to qualify.

In January, Cadet Pearce went on to phase two – a six-day, pre-selection training school where he was one of four out of 14 selected for the 12 to 18-month combat rescue officer training to include eight schools.

"Those six days were probably the hardest week I've ever experienced in my life," said Cadet Pearce. "The physical portion of the training was hard, but there was also a strong mental and leadership aspect to it too."

The 14 men who attended the school ranged from cadets to lieutenant colonels.

"The men who I had a chance to work with there, especially being at the lower end as a cadet, taught me a great deal about the officer that I wanted to be," said Cadet Pearce.

"(Cadet Pearce) clearly displays a training niche and enjoyment while leading cadets as a field training flight commander," said Lt. Col. Cherry.

Cadet Pearce enters combat rescue officer school following his graduation and commission this fall.

"We don't expect anything but the best from Cadet Pearce. Even when he received the distinguished graduate award during summer field training it came as no surprise," said Lt. Col. Cherry.

"All my life I wanted a job that made a difference and gave me the chance to be around people that had honor and pride in them", said Cadet Pearce. "As far as my family, they want me to be happy. They know that to get huge rewards you have to take big risks."

Cadet Pearce plans to take his "If I quit someone dies" motto into his training. His faith, which he describes as guiding him throughout his life, is the most important attribution to his success and allowing the door to his dream to be opened.



Det. 800, University of Tennesee, Cadet Ryan Pearce looks over the flight book at the detachment. (Courtesy photo)



(Courtesy photo)

ROTC AROUND THE NATION

A) WARD

Det. 595 — North Carolina State University. Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Company Grade Officers Council honored one of Det. 595's up-and-coming leaders. Cadet Michael Lebrun received a \$250 scholarship for his leadership accomplishments in the Cadet Corps and his outstanding academic record. 2nd Lts. Almaira Feist and David Titus, representatives from the Seymour Johnson AFB CGOC, presented the award on Jan. 24.

The Seymour Johnson AFB Company Grade Officers Council Scholarship is in its second year, and is open to all cadets in Eastern North Carolina. Cadet Lebrun competed against dozens of other applicants to become just one of two winners for this coveted award. The award is given to cadets who consistently demonstrate leadership and academic excellence.

According to his award, Cadet Lebrun's outstanding achievements in AFROTC and in the classroom have rightfully earned him this CGOC scholarship. His ability to manage the operations of an ever-growing cadet wing while excelling in the classroom have prepared him to become one of the Air Force's future outstanding leaders.

▶ B A S K E T B A L L

Det. 595 — North Carolina State University. On Feb. 3 five cadets traveled to the plains of Indiana for the annual Notre Dame University AFROTC basketball tournament. The first night the cadets visited the gym where they would play two of their three games. They also witnessed a handful of detachments practicing and quickly no-



Det. 595, North Carolina State University, Cadet Michael Lebrun (center) received a \$250 scholarship from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base's Company Grade Officers Council. The award was presented by 2nd Lts. Almaira Feist (left) and David Titus (right) both representatives from the CGOC. (Courtesy photo)

ticed that many teams averaged at least nine players. They began to wonder whether the trip was worth it with only five players. The next day the cadets played three games, full court with fifteen-minute halves. The team felt they did outstanding considering the team size and no bench to call on. The team finished the weekend with a record of 2 and 1. All the teams Det. 595 faced were difficult match-ups, but the Wolfpack Warriors earned their respect. Unfortunately, Det. 595 did not make it to the championship round as a wild card entry due to a good showing by the cadets at Colorado State, but Det. 595 did finish second in the division.

FAMILY WEEKEND

Det. 550 — Rensselaer Polytech-NIC Institute. On Nov. 2 Det. 550 invited the families of cadets to join them for the annual Family Weekend. Cadets presented a variety of different aspects of cadet life through briefings and drill exhibitions.

The day began with a formal reveille preformed by Det. 550's Honor Guard, followed by an Open Detachment, where the families of cadets could see the Detachment offices and talk with the cadre. Afterward, families were invited to listen to cadet presentations on a variety of topics and observe drill exhibitions. Several cadets spoke about Professional Development Training, making people aware of opportunities available during the summer. Other presentations included briefings from the recruiting flight and from Arnold Air Society.

The focus of Family Weekend is to make families aware of what their ca-

dets are doing at Det. 550. To accomplish this, one of the cadets presented a "typical week in the life of an ROTC cadet," where he described different activities and events during a normal week. The GMC advisor gave a presentation about his work in helping new cadets adjust to the military lifestyle. Between briefings, Det. 550's Armed and Unarmed Drill Teams performed their routines with the corps video rounding out the presentations.

Cadet Brennon Thomas said, ""Family Weekend was an opportunity for the parents to see the best that Det. 550 has to offer including drill teams, the Honor Guard and the Arnold Air Society."

DINING-IN

Det. **650** — Ohio University. On Nov. 16 cadets resurrected a lost tradition at Det. 650, the Combat Dining-In.

The last Combat Dining-In at Det. 650 was held in 1997, so none of the current cadets or cadre members were in attendance.

Cadets had the opportunity to wear camouflage paint, Kevlar helmets and any other piece of camouflage equip-

ment they could get their hands on to compliment their BDUs. The evening began with the presentation of the colors and the POW/MIA ceremony and toast followed by the traditional opening of the Grog Bowl.

Each flight added its own ingredient to the Grog, including cinnamon, coffee, pickle juice, cream of wheat and Tabasco sauce. When called to the Grog, cadets had the opportunity to respond to the cadet who called them out by rhyming a rebuttal. Cadet Monica Clodwick, famous at Det. 650 for her picky eating habits, managed to get out of a visit to the Grog Bowl by rhyming back her response.

After dinner and dessert,

cadets had the opportunity to hear Tech. Sgt. Danette Griffin speak. Tech. Sgt. Griffin, an 18-year veteran, is the NCO in charge of information at Det. 650. She spoke to the Det. 650 cadre and cadets about future relations with non-commissioned officers, as well as the experiences and opportunities cadets have to look forward to as they begin their Air Force careers.

CONFERENCE

Det. 550 — Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In January Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Department of Aerospace Studies and Naval Science sent seven cadets and midshipmen to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., to attend the US Naval Academy Leadership Conference.

This year's theme, Building and Leading Teams, emphasized the effort to incorporate perspectives from across the spectrum of academia, business, government and military leadership, developing teamwork and achieving success. During the week the cadets and midshipmen heard speeches from the Deputy Secretary of State, the Vice

President of Gallup Organization, the former Ambassador to China and others. The mission of the conference was to bring together the best minds in the practice and study of leadership and to exchange ideas, experiences and methods with military and civilian students.

A panel discussion led by a former Ambassador to China was held the final day. He and the three other participants; a Senior Vice President of Verizon Communications, a Dean of McGeorge School of Law, and a Senior Fellow at the Center for Creative Leadership, discussed current topics of leadership in the business place and current events. Although the speakers spoke about their own personal experiences, the conclusion was the same, the importance of building and leading teams.

VOLUNTEER

Det. 536 — Clarkson University. At Det. 536 the Elwood R. Quesada Squadron of Arnold Air Society recently assisted local community groups in putting on two events for local youth. One of the missions of an AAS squadron is to serve its community. The Quesada



Cadet Tim Ault, Det. 650, Ohio University, enjoys a cup of grog at the Det. 650's first Dining-In since 1997. Cadet Steve Koltonski looks on. (Courtesy photo)



Three cadets, Jennifer Silverstein, Matthew Siletzsky and Jennifer Cilia, from Det. 550, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, were selected to meet and have lunch with Lt. Col. Ron Garan, Jr, NASA astronaut and a future Space Shuttle mission commander, when he toured RPI in November. (Photo by Capt. Kerry Strait)

Squadron acted on this goal by volunteering cadets to assist with both the recent Family Fun Night held at the Potsdam Middle School, Potsdam, N.Y., and the Klondike Derby held in Massena, N.Y.

Ten AAS members attended the Family Fun Night Jan. 24. The three-hour event allowed local school children to get together with friends at the Potsdam Middle School. There was dancing, food and game stations that the children rotated through in small groups. The game stations were run by AAS members and were dispersed throughout the gymnasium. The middle school students had the opportunity to play volleyball, bowl and compete in crab-walk races.

The Klondike Derby is held annually in Massena, N.Y., and AAS members volunteer regularly. Held this year on Jan. 25, the daylong Klondike Derby was an opportunity for local Boy Scout troops to compete with other troops in a series of outdoor challenges. Between challenges, the Scouts must develop a joint effort to pull a sled carrying their cargo. The stations involved first aid, knot tying and fire starting along with various other challenges. In total, the

AAS members logged over 200 hours of service between the two events.



Det. 550 — Rensselaer Polytech-NIC INSTITUTE. On Oct. 10 three lucky cadets from Det. 550 were selected to meet and have lunch with NASA astronaut Lt. Col. Ron Garan, Jr. Colonel Garan, a future Space Shuttle mission commander, toured RPI, which also has a link to the space program. RPI's former president, George Low, headed the Apollo Program that landed Americans on the moon in 1969. After meeting with Colonel Garan, Cadet Jennifer Cilia said, "It was a great experience to speak with an astronaut. To hear his stories and the experiences he has gone through, and to know how he has gotten there shows me, I can be and do whatever I set my mind to."



Det. 218 — Indiana State University. During the first semester, Det. 218 hosted three large events in one month. The first was the promotion of lst Lt. Scott Hamilton to Captain. Captain

Hamilton is the Commandant of Cadets and actively promotes Air Force career opportunities to university and high school students, faculty, administrators and counselors. However, that wasn't the only promotion for the month. Lt. Col. Randy Paschall, Professor of Aerospace Studies and Det. 218 commander, was promoted to Colonel and his wife and daughter participated in a special pin-on ceremony during Leadership Lab. Colonel Paschall was the Director of Operations at Lackland I last summer and is currently finishing his last year as commander at Det. 218.

To end the semester, the local news covered Det. 218's change of command parade from officers center to the pass and review. Although the Det. has almost twice as many cadets as last year, the parade still ran smoothly. Cadet Dave Suszko stepped down from the position of Cadet Commander making way for Cadet Mike McNabb to step in.

Det. 218 was also involved in the Indiana State University Homecoming Parade. The group staff found it fitting to have the GMC dressed in their blues, while the POC flight dressed in BDU's. The wing was busy as the semester wound down and now is ready for the many events scheduled for this spring.

VETERANS

Det. 595 — North Carolina State University. On Feb. 14 seven cadets traveled to the Durham Veterans Association Medical Center to participate in the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. The annual program is held at veterans' hospitals around the nation on Valentines Day. The cadets had the opportunity to walk around and hand out valentines that were created by elementary school students across the nation to those who fought so bravely for our country. While handing out valentines, the cadets also had the opportunity to talk with and hear stories from the veterans, and thank them for fighting for

our country. Other groups also participated with Det. 595 including other local university ROTC units, active duty military personnel from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, local veterans agencies and state VIPs, including Congressman David Price, representatives from the Senators' offices and this year's Miss North Carolina.

PAGEANT

Det 290 — University of Kentucky & Det. 295 — University of Louisville. As most cadets took a break from classes to visit their families and have a little time off during the Thanksgiving holiday, five cadets from Det. 295 and two from Det. 290 were hard at work. The cadets were invited to participate in a Color Guard event with the University of Louisville Army ROTC. The Color Guard duties at the event — the annual Miss Kentucky Teen USA and Miss Kentucky USA Pageant — included posting the Colors, providing a saber arch, and escorting the contes-

tants. With 150 contestants at the three-day event, the cadets had a lot to keep them busy. The cadets were involved in almost every aspect of the pageant, from rehearsals to the closing ceremonies, and worked closely with the contestants and pageant staff. Each night Cadets Matthew Baber, Gregory Linker, Demitry Nedelin and Stacy Wagers presented the Colors during the opening ceremonies and formed part of the saber arch during the evening gown competition. Cadets Joseph Gaines, Jack O'Connor and Derrick Rosenbarger had the privilege of escorting the contestants through the arch. Cadets Rosenbarger and Gaines were also involved in presenting the flowers and crown to the new Miss Kentucky. This was the first time the pageant had used Air Force ROTC cadets for the event, but probably won't be the last. The pageant director has already asked them to come back again next year, and most of the cadets have already volunteered to go.

Det. 550 — Rensselaer Polytech-NIC Institute. From Nov. 29 - Dec. 1 eight cadets from Det. 550 took part in the Miss New York USA and Miss New York Teen USA pageants. Cadets Thomas Gentile, Robert Johnson, Evan Marchetti, Justin Rupe, Peter Sabatowski, Curt Schwarz, Zachary Stolp, and Benjamin Wolfe escorted the contestants onto and off the stage. The cadets also served as the Color Guard and provided a Saber Arch for the evening gown portion of the semifinals. After the shows many of the parents and contestants expressed their thanks and gratitude for the cadets' performance. The winners from this pageant will go on to the national competition and will

have the chance to compete for Miss America and Miss Teen USA.

▶ 0 VERNIGHT

Det. 650 — Ohio State University. The AS-200 class put on a GMC overnight for the AS-100s, to address issues as simple as marching and as important as fraternization and uniform wear. The night began with all of the freshmen and sophomores filling out surveys to break the ice and get to know one another. The night progressed with a scavenger hunt, a bearing-breaking contest and a drill down. Cadets also had the opportunity to play an ROTC-inspired "Jeopardy!" game. The GMC woke at 8 a.m. the next day to the sound and smell of POC cadets cooking breakfast for them. Cadet Lincoln Kaffenberger, who put the event together, attributes the success of the night to his fellow AS-200s. "Everyone knows each other better now, and it's going to promote wing unity in the future," said Cadet Kaffenberger.



Cadet Matthew Baber (left) from Det. 290, University of Kentucky and Cadet Demitry Nedelin (right) from Det. 295, University of Louisville, form the saber arch at the Miss Kentucky USA pageant as Cadet Jack O'Connor, Det. 295, ushers a contestant. (Courtesy photo)

JROTC cadets compete at ROTC hosted Drill Meet Color Guard: NC-921, Ragsdale High Ind. Reg. Unarmed: NC-041, Enka High Ind. Reg. Unarmed: NC-034, East Henderson High

By Cadet Glen Urik

Det. 592, University of North Carolina-Charlotte

More than 700 JROTC cadets from 28 high schools in North and South Carolina visited UNC Charlotte Nov. 2 to test their marching abilities.

The 14th Annual 49er Classic Drill Competition was held on the East parking lot of UNCC's campus. Det. 592 hosts this event every fall.

"The drill competition serves two purposes," said Lt. Col. Jamie Scotland, Det. 592 commander and Professor of Aerospace Studies. "The first is to give support and encouragement to JROTC students. The second is to provide leadership opportunities for cadets running the competition."

This year's competition was one of the biggest Det. 592 has ever hosted. These annual competitions benefit high school JROTC students by allowing them to test their drill abilities as well as show off these abilities and receive awards for their performance.

This year's events included Color Guard, Individual Regulation Unarmed, Flight Regulation Unarmed, Element Regulation Unarmed, Individual Regulation Armed, Individual Fancy Armed, Element Fancy Armed, Flight Fancy Armed and Element Regulation Armed.

'Knock Out' is another interesting drill competition tradition that allows cadets a chance to compete against each other outside of the standard competition categories.

"Cadets from all the JROTC units present form up into one large formation, following the commands of an ROTC cadet," said Cadet Glen Urik, Det. 595 public affairs. "This cadet yells out drill commands, and cadets that do not properly execute the commands are 'knocked out' and have to leave the formation. This continues until just a single cadet remains. This year, it came down to two cadets in the last few tense minutes of the knock out competition."

"The purpose of the drill competition was to build morale among the JROTC detachments in the area," said Cadet Fullam, Det. 592 Wing commander, "and I could see that these JROTC units have a lot of talent and potential."

Once everyone had finished marching Cadet Fullam handed out the awards to the winners in each category.

Color Guard: NC-921, Ragsdale High
Ind. Reg. Unarmed: NC-041, Enka High
Ind. Reg. Armed: NC-934, East Henderson High
Element Reg. Unarmed: NC-921, Ragsdale High
Element Reg. Armed: NC-051, Central Cabarrus High
Flight Reg. Unarmed: NC-051, Central Cabarrus High
Ind. Fancy: NC-032, Terry Sanford High
Element Fancy: NC-032, Terry Sanford High
Overall: First: NC-051, Central Cabarrus;
Second: NC-921, Ragsdale;
Third: NC-934, East Henderson

"These events showcase the quality and character of IROTC participants," said Colonel Scotland.

Cadet, Adam De Felice was the project officer in charge of this year's drill competition.

"The experience was challenging and enjoyable," said Cadet De Felice.

Det. 592 holds events such as the drill competition to give students enrolled in the AFROTC program leadership opportunities, but also as a way of finding people interested in joining AFROTC.

"This is a good chance to recruit," said Cadet De Felice. "It gets people aware of our program here and the different leadership opportunities available."



j u n i o r

Building Better Citizens



CA-937 — JOHN H. FRANCIS POLY-TECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL. The unit was invited by the National President for the Military Order of World Wars to perform their POW/MIA Ceremony at the MOWW National Convention in Las Vegas, Nev., at the Stardust Hotel. The guest speaker, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Henry Principi and his wife, were part of the audience of more than 900 active and retired military officers from all branches of service from all over the United States. The cadets received a three-minute standing ovation for their outstanding performance honoring our POWs and MIAs. Because of this performance the unit has been asked to perform at the Red,

White and Blue Ball on June 7 at the Hyatt Regency in Woodland Hills, Calif. During their three-day visit to Las Vegas, the cadets were given a tour of Nellis Air Force Base where they visited the Threat Center, Control Tower and Munitions Branch where an F-16 was on static display. (*Editor's Note:* In the February 2003 issue of Leader, CA-931, Valley View High School was identified as performing at the MOWW National Convention. CA-937, John H. Francis Polytechnic High School performed the ceremony.)

BASE VISIT

MS-20004 — Crystal Springs High School. Twenty-seven cadets took a

field trip to the Meridian Naval Air Station in Meridian, Miss., Jan. 16. They departed Crystal Springs High School at 6 a.m. for the three-hour drive.

lst Lt. Frank Ingargiola, who is presently attending flight school to get his "wings," acted as the group's tour guide for the day. Cadets started the tour by watching an overview presentation about what goes on at Meridian NAS. Afterward, Lieutenant Ingargiola answered any questions the cadets had.

Cadets had the opportunity to look at the various training planes that were stationed there. They even got to see the airplanes take off and look into the cockpit of one of the planes.

Cadets also took a tour of the Op-

erations building to see the "brains" of flight coordination. They learned that inside the radar room is where the path of the pilot's flight is coordinated. Another responsibility of operations is to make sure that the planes do not run into each other. The tour continued to the tower where they met a crew whose job is to make sure the planes take off and land prop-

Before the end of the tour cadets went to the flight simulators where soon-to-be pilots were training. Cadets could not fly in the simulator due to the training that was taking place, but they agreed it was still a



School board member Susan Brager-Wellman and school superintendent Carlos Garcia (right) present Lt. Col. James McEvoy, NV-941, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, a plaque to welcome Durango High School's JROTC unit into the Excellence in Education Hall of Fame. (Courtesy photo)

very interesting place to see.



NV-941 — Durango High School. In 1987, the Board of School Trustees of the Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nev., approved the establishment of an Excellence in Education Hall of Fame. The award is designed to permanently recognize individuals, departments, and schools for their extraordinary contributions to the district's educational endeavors. Amongst those entering the Hall of Fame this year was NV-941 at Durango H.S.

The unit has been extremely successful for the past eight years. Examples of the unit's accomplishments include winning the Clark County School District Annual Drill Competition three times in the last five years, being awarded more AFROTC scholarships and academy appointments than any other JROTC school in Nevada. The Clark County School District is the 6th largest school district in the U.S. with over 270,000 students and 300 schools. Entry into the Excellence in Education Hall of Fame is one of the highest honors the Clark County School District can bestow.

DRILL

AL-011 — ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL. More than 4,500 JROTC cadets from 82 high schools from across the U.S. competed in the American Legion/Coca-Cola National Drill Team Competition Feb. 1. AL-011 hosted the eleventh annual drill competition at Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery, Ala. The all day's competition ended with trophies being awarded in events including inspection, color guard, individual, duel and knockout drill.

The champions in Facsimile were; lst place – Enterprise H.S., Ala., AJROTC; 2nd place – FL-041, Leesburg H.S., Fla., AFJROTC; 3rd place – Wetumpka H.S., Ala., AJROTC

The champions in **Unarmed were**; lst place – FL-824, Lakeworth Comm.

H.S., Fla., AFJROTC; 2nd place – OK-943, Southeast H.S., Okla., AFJROTC; 3rd place – TX-951, Oakridge H.S., Texas, AFJROTC

The champions in **Demilitarized** were; lst place – Irving H.S., Texas, MCJROTC; 2nd place – Oxford H.S., Mass., NJROTC; 3rd place – NC-921, Ragsdale H.S., N.C., AFJROTC

NC-921 – RAGSDALE HIGH SCHOOL. For the second consecutive year and the third time in five years the Flying Tiger Drill Team won the Dr. Kenneth Daly Award as the best Air Force Drill Team at the American Legion / Coca-Cola National Drill Team Competition held Feb. 1 in Montgomery, Ala. Consistency was "the order of the day" for the Tigers who placed first in Unarmed Color Guard, second in Demilitarized Exhibition, Third in Demilitarized Inspection, and fourth in Demilitarized Color Guard.

S ERVICE

NC-921 - RAGSDALE HIGH SCHOOL. The cadets, lead by their Kitty Hawk Air Society, put "Service before Self" on Dec. 14 when they committed more than 60 hours to the Salvation Army Kettle Ring. Through their efforts they raised almost \$1,000 for the less fortunate of Greensboro and High Point, N.C. The following week 17 cadets volunteered more than 100 hours working on a Habitat For Humanity house Dec. 21. The cadets continued their service during January and February by raising more than \$425 for The Special Olympics through personal donations and sponsors for the Polar Plunge. The "plunge" on Feb. 15 was a sheriffs' departmentsponsored event where seven sponsored cadets had the honor of diving into a frigid Oak Hollow Lake for charity.

P ARTICIPATION

TX-200011—CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL. November was the beginning of a busy few months for the unit. TX-200011 attended and placed in multiple

events in four drill competitions and won three model rocket team competitions. The unit marched in a local community parade and the Martin Luther King parade in Houston. TX-200011 also performed the color guard duties for the Veterans Day Ceremony at the local American Legion Post 393, and the Veterans Day ceremony at their high school and junior high school. The unit cosponsored a Thanksgiving Food Drive with their high school student council, decorated a Christmas tree for a local nursing home and was bell-ringers for the Salvation Army. In December 60 cadets visited Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. The unit also collected \$2,300.00 for clothes and toys to give to 12 needy families during their Christmas toy and fund drive. The unit has not slowed down in 2003 either. They held their Military Ball on 8 Feb.

DV VISIT

AZ-861 — Dobson High School. On Feb. 13 Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Steve Ritchie, a Vietnam War Ace visited AZ-861. During his visit he talked about Leadership. His inspiring interactive talk gave cadets a sense of patriotic pride. General Ritchie also hammered home the point to make a plan for the future, starting now. He emphasized that every day delayed is a day lost that can't be made up like homework.



Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Steve Ritchie speaks to the cadets of AZ-861. (Courtesy photo)

CADET COLLAGE



- 1. Det. 825, University of Texas-Austin, held a POW/MIA run in honor of Veterans day.
- 2. Cadets from Det. 915, West Virginia University, hold up their scholarships from the university's Loyalty Permanent Endowment Fund.
- 3. Cadets at Det. 060, University of Southern California, received some simulated F-16 training before their incentive flight.
- 4. Cadets at Det 205 received a touch of combat during their annual combat dining-
- 5. Cadets from Det. 290, University of Kentucky, participated in a ropes course. (Courtesy photos)









